

**OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS  
RENDERED BY THE INTER-  
NATIONAL COMMISSION ON  
ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE**

*Edited by*

**FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.**  
Secretary to the Commission

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**OPINION 246**

Designation, under the Plenary Powers, of a type species for the nominal genus *Gastrodes* Westwood, 1840 (Class Insecta, Order Hemiptera), in harmony with accustomed nomenclatorial usage



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# INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

## COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 246

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*Vice-President* : Dr. James L. Peters (*Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A.*).

*Secretary* : Mr. Francis Hemming, C.M.G., C.B.E. (*London, England*).

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Dr. Norman R. STOLL (*Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, Princeton, New Jersey, U.S.A.*).

### C. Alternate Members of the Commission at the Session held in Paris in 1948

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Professor Ragnar SPÄRCK (*Universitetets Zoologiske Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark*).

Professor Victor van STRAELEN (*Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, Bruxelles, Belgium*).

Professor Robert L. USINGER (*University of California, Berkeley, California, U.S.A.*).

## OPINION 246

DESIGNATION, UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS, OF A  
TYPE SPECIES FOR THE NOMINAL GENUS  
"GASTRODES" WESTWOOD, 1840 (CLASS  
INSECTA, ORDER HEMIPTERA), IN  
HARMONY WITH ACCUSTOMED  
NOMENCLATORIAL USAGE

**RULING** :—(1) Under the Plenary Powers all type-selections for the nominal genus *Gastrodes* Westwood, 1840 (Class Insecta, Order Hemiptera), made prior to the present Ruling are hereby set aside and *Gastrodes abietum* Bergroth, 1914, is hereby designated as the type species of this genus.

(2) The generic name *Gastrodes* Westwood, 1840 (gender of name: masculine), with the type species designated in (1) above, is hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* as Name No. 672.

(3) The specific name *abietum* Bergroth, 1914, as published in the combination *Gastrodes abietum*, is hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* as Name No. 65.

### I.—THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 30th June 1943 the Royal Entomological Society of London published Part 8 of the work entitled *The Generic Names of British Insects*. This Part contained the Eighth Report of the Society's Committee on Generic Nomenclature<sup>1</sup> covering the First Report of its Hemiptera Sub-Committee.<sup>2</sup> This Report

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<sup>1</sup> The composition of the Committee on Generic Nomenclature at the time of the submission of this Report was the same as it had been at the completion of its Sixth Report. Its composition at the latter date has been given in footnote 1 to *Opinion* 243 (: 48).

<sup>2</sup> The Hemiptera Sub-Committee at the time of the submission of this Report was composed of: Dr. W. E. China; Mr. E. E. Green.

dealt exclusively with the generic names of the British Hemiptera-Heteroptera. Annexed to the Sub-Committee's Report as Annex II was a paper by Dr. W. E. China (*British Museum (Natural History), London*), one of the members of the Sub-Committee, giving particulars of ten nominal genera, each based upon a misidentified type species, and asking that in each case the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature should use its Plenary Powers in such a way as to secure that the type species should be not the species to which the cited name is applicable but the species intended by the author of the generic name when he cited the name of the nominal species concerned. The fourth of the names in question was *Gastrodes* Westwood, 1840, with which the present *Opinion* is concerned. The recommendations in regard to this and the nine other cases referred to above prepared by Dr. China and endorsed by the Committee on Generic Nomenclature were formally submitted to the International Commission by Mr. N. D. Riley, Secretary to the Royal Entomological Society of London, on 23rd August 1943. The application relating to the present case was as follows :—

**Proposed suspension of the "Règles" for "Gastrodes" Westwood, 1840 (Class Insecta, Order Hemiptera), a genus based upon an erroneously determined species**

By W. E. CHINA, M.A.

(Assistant Keeper in the Department of Entomology, British Museum (Natural History))

**Gastrodes** Westwood, 1804

Original reference :—Westwood, 1840, *Introd. mod. Class. Ins.* 2 (*Syn. Gen. Brit. Ins.*) : 122.

Author by whom the type in question was designated and reference :—The genus is monobasic.

Name of species so designated as type :—Monobasic type is *Cimex abietis* Linnaeus, 1758.

Species intended by the original author of the genus when employing the specific name in question :—*Cimex abietis* (Linnaeus) Westwood, 1840, *nec* Linnaeus, 1758, *i.e.*, the species the valid name for which is *Cimex abietum* Bergroth, 1914, *Wien. ent. Ztg.* 33 : 183.

Discussion of the case :—Westwood based his genus on a single species which he (in common with all authors up to 1898) assumed to

be *Cimex abietis* Linnaeus, 1758. Horváth, however, in 1898, *Rev. Ent.*, Caen, 17 : 277, showed conclusively that the true *Cimex abietis* Linnaeus is identical with *Lygaeus erraticus* Fabricius, 1794, a species at that time referred to the genus *Eremocoris* Fieber, 1860, and since fixed as the type of that genus by Distant, 1903, *Faun. Brit. Ind. Rhyn.* 2 : 92. In consequence the species *Cimex abietis* Westwood et auct. remained without a name and was re-named *Cimex abietum* by Bergroth, 1914, *Wien. ent. Ztg.* 33 : 183. The type of *Gastrodes* Westwood therefore is not the wrongly identified *Cimex abietis* Linnaeus, 1758, but *Cimex abietum* Bergroth, 1914.

If it were necessary under the Code to assume that Westwood's determination of this species was correct, Westwood's designation of *Cimex abietis* Linnaeus as the type of *Gastrodes* Westwood would involve the transfer of that name to the genus at present known as *Eremocoris* Fieber, 1860, while the genus at present known as *Gastrodes* would become *Oimoctes* Gistel, 1848. Such action would not only cause confusion in the nomenclature of these genera but would run directly counter to Westwood's intentions and would be open to the strongest objection in that it would involve the designation as type of *Gastrodes* of a species disagreeing completely with the generic description. It is for this reason that I have disregarded Westwood's citation on *Cimex abietis* Linnaeus as the type of the genus, accepted *Cimex abietum* Bergroth, and treated *Cimex abietis* Linnaeus as an *Eremocoris*.

Action by the International Commission desired :—A declaration that the action of Westwood in citing *Cimex abietis* Linnaeus, 1758, as the type *Gastrodes* Westwood, 1840, is invalid, since that species was not included in the genus, the species which he there designated under that name being in fact another species generically distinct from *Cimex abietis* Linnaeus and since named *Cimex abietum* Bergroth, 1914. In consequence the type of the genus *Gastrodes* Westwood, 1840, is *Cimex abietum* Bergroth, 1914, the sole species originally included by Westwood in the genus.

## II.—THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

2. On receipt, all ten of the applications discussed in the preceding paragraph were registered together under the Number Z.N.(S.) 144. As soon as possible thereafter, these applications were prepared for publication in the then newly established *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*. The present application was sent to the printer in September 1944, but owing to difficulties arising from paper rationing, shortage of labour at the printing



works and similar causes, publication did not actually take place until 31st March 1947 (China, 1947, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 1 : 283).

3. After the present application had been sent to the printer for publication in the *Bulletin* but long before it was published, Dr. R. I. Sailor (*United States Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.*) wrote a letter on 12th January 1945, commenting upon the proposals submitted by the Committee on Generic Nomenclature when transmitting the First Report of its Hemiptera Sub-Committee to the Council of the Royal Entomological Society of London. After criticising the application submitted in the case of the name *Alydus* Fabricius, Dr. Sailor intimated as follows his support for the proposal dealt with in the present *Opinion* :—  
“ I should like to add that, in my opinion, all other cases presented in Part 8 of *The Generic Names of British Insects* merit favorable action by the Commission ”.

4. *Issue of Public Notices* : On 29th September 1947 a notice of the possible use by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of its Plenary Powers in the present case was issued to the serial publications prescribed by the Ninth International Congress of Zoology, Monaco, 1913. The publication of these notices elicited no objection to the action proposed.

### III.—THE DECISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

5. At an early stage of its work during its Paris Session in 1948 the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature submitted to the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology a recommendation for the insertion in the *Règles* of a comprehensive provision dealing with the problem presented by nominal genera based upon misidentified type species. The gist of this provision was that, where it could be shown that an error of identification of this kind had occurred, it should be the duty of the International Commission, on the facts being laid before it by specialists, to use its Plenary Powers to vary the type species

of the genus concerned in such a way as to harmonise with current nomenclatorial usage, the Commission being left free, however, to withhold action under its Plenary Powers, in any case where the nominal species cited by the author of a generic name and not the species to which he had intended to refer had become generally accepted by workers in the group concerned and where, in consequence, the correction of the original author's error would be likely to lead to confusion and name-changing (Paris Session, 6th Meeting, Conclusion 38) (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 158—159). It was in the light of the foregoing provision that the present application was considered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature at the Fourteenth Meeting of its Paris Session held at the Sorbonne in the Amphithéâtre Louis-Liard on Monday, 26th July 1948 at 2030 hours. The following is an extract from the Official Record of the Proceedings of the International Commission, summarising the introductory statement made by the Acting President (Mr. Francis Hemming) and the ensuing discussion which took place on the present case (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 472) :—

THE ACTING PRESIDENT (MR. FRANCIS HEMMING) said that unfortunately through some oversight the Commission File (file Z.N.(S.) 144), dealing with the present series of applications had not been included among those which he had brought with him to Paris to assist the Commission in the consideration of problems calling for decision. So far as he could recall, no objections to the action proposed in these cases had been received from any source. These cases appeared to be exactly of the kind envisaged in *Opinion* 168. They all related to genera based upon misidentified species, where the acceptance of the type species actually cited (as contrasted with that intended) by the original author would certainly cause great confusion. In such cases the Commission were now under an obligation to use their Plenary Powers to avoid disturbance in accepted nomenclature.

ALTERNATE COMMISSIONER ROBERT L. USINGER (U.S.A.) said that, as a hemipterist, he was familiar with the problem presented by the name *Gastrodes* Westwood and was in full agreement with the conclusions reached by Dr. China. He

accordingly supported the proposal that the Plenary Powers should be used to designate *Cimex abietum* Bergroth, 1914, as the type species of this genus.

6. The decision taken by the International Commission in the present case is set out as follows in the Official Record of its Proceedings (Paris Session, 14th Meeting, Conclusion 21) (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 469—473) :—

THE COMMISSION agreed :—

(1) to use their Plenary Powers :—

(a) to set aside the designation by Westwood of *Cimex abietis* Linnaeus, 1758, as the type species of the monotypical genus *Gastrodes* Westwood, 1840 (Class Insecta, Order Hemiptera) ;

(b) to designate *Gastrodes abietum* Bergroth, 1914, to be the type species of the foregoing genus ;

(2) to place the generic name *Gastrodes* Westwood, 1840, with the type species specified in (1)(b) above, on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* ;

(3) to place the trivial name *abietum* Bergroth, 1914 (as published in the combination *Gastrodes abietum*), on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* ;

(4) to render an *Opinion* recording the decisions specified in (1) to (3) above ;

.....



7. The following are the original references for the names which appear in the decision set out in the immediately preceding paragraph :—

*abietum*, *Gastrodes*, Bergroth, 1914, *Wien. ent. Ztg.* **33** : 183  
*Gastrodes* Westwood, 1840, *Introd. mod. Class. Ins.* **2** (Syn. Gen. brit. Ins.) : 122.

8. The gender of the generic name *Gastrodes* Westwood, 1840, referred to in the decision quoted in paragraph 6 above, is masculine.

9. The decision taken in the present case was reported to, and approved by, the Section on Nomenclature of the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948, at its Sixth Meeting held on 26th July 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **5** : 115).

10. The Ruling given in the present *Opinion* was concurred in by the sixteen (16) Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners present at the Paris Session of the International Commission, namely :—

Beltrán *vice* Cabrera ; Boschma ; Bradley ; di Caporiacco ; Hemming ; Hindle *vice* Jordan ; Jorge *vice* do Amaral ; Kirby *vice* Stoll ; Lemche *vice* Dymond ; Mansour *vice* Hankó ; Metcalf *vice* Peters ; Riley *vice* Calman ; Rode ; Spärck *vice* Mortensen ; van Straelen *vice* Richter ; Usinger *vice* Vokes.

11. The Ruling given in the present *Opinion* was dissented from by no Commissioner or Alternate Commissioner present at the Paris Session.

12. At the time of the adoption of the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*, the expression prescribed for the second portion of the binomen which constitutes the scientific name of a species was the expression “ trivial name ” and the *Official List* reserved for recording such names was styled the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*, the word “ trivial ” appearing also in the title of the *Official Index* reserved for recording rejected

and invalid names of this category. Under a decision taken by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953, the expression "specific name" was substituted for the expression "trivial name" and corresponding changes were made in the titles of the *Official List* and *Official Index* of such names (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 21). The changes in terminology so adopted have been incorporated in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*.

13. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

14. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* Two Hundred and Forty-Six (246) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London this Sixteenth day of December, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Three.

*Secretary to the International Commission  
on Zoological Nomenclature*

**FRANCIS HEMMING**